

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-01 PRS-01 MC-02 IGA-01 DODE-00 PM-05

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R 090815Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1318

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0837

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: POSSIBLE RESUMPTION ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

SUMMARY: GOA HOPES WE WILL NOT RESUME ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN. I HOPE CAN INFORM IT OF OUR DECISION BEFORE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE.

1. DURING CORDIAL 45-MINUTE TALK WITH DEPFONMIN WAHEED ABDULLAH ON FEBRUARY 8, I GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE U.S./ PAKISTAN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED FEBRUARY 7 AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRIMIN BHUTTO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON , AND ALSO DREW UPON REF A FOR THE THREE GENERAL PRINCIPLES ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY RELATING TO THE PAKISTAN ARMS QUESTION.

2. ABDULLAH PROBED VIGOROUSLY TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAD ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHETHER A FINAL DECISION ON ARMS SUPPLY HAD BEEN MADE. HE REFERRED QKRTICULARLY TO THE LANGUAGE IN REF A WHICH STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AGREED TO GIVE THE ARMS QUESTION "ACTIVE CONSIDERATION" AND ASKED WHETHER THE WORD "ACTIVE" HAD ANY SIGNIFICANCE. I ASSERTED THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

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SPOKE FOR ITSELF AND THAT I HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD,

HAVING AT THAT TIME RECEIVED NO FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON.

3. ABDULLAH EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE THREE PRINCIPLES MENTIONED IN REF A WHICH ABDULLAH SAID CONFORMED TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS IN KABUL IN NOVEMBER. HE STRESSED THE GOA'S HOPE THAT WE WOULD NOT SUPPLY ADDITIONAL ARMS TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE IN HIS VIEW THE PAKS WOULD NOT USE THEM RESPONSIBLY.

4. COMMENT: AFGHANS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY WATCHING ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN CLOSELY. WE HAVE GIVEN OUR VIEW OF THE IMPACT OF SUCH A RESUMPTION IN REF B. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE MY HOPE THAT WE BE GIVEN SOME ADVANCE NOTICE SO THAT WE MAY INFORM THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND GIVE IT SOME RATIONALE FOR WHATEVER MOVE WE ARE CONTEMPLATING. I HAVUGVT COURSE NOT GIVEN ANY ASSURANCES WE WOULD GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE, BUT THE GOA, IN TTE ATMOSPHERE ESTABLISHED BQLKHE EECRETARY'S VISIT, WOULD EXPECT IT.

5. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION AS THE STATUS OF PAKISTAN/ AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS, ABDULLAH SAID THERE WAS NOTHING NEW AT PRESENT AND ADDED THAT GOA WAS WAITING TO SEE HOW THE BHUTTO TALKS CAME OUT IN WASHINGTON BEFORE DECIDING ON NEXT STEPS.
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